



Dr. Andrea Travnicek (Trav-nick)
Director, North Dakota Department of Water Resources

In August 2021, Dr. Travnicek was appointed by Governor Burgum to oversee the North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR). In this role, Andrea oversees the management of water resources for the state through water development, regulatory responsibilities, planning, education, and safety.

Previously, Andrea was appointed by Governor Burgum in May 2020 to oversee the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. In this Director position, she managed public lands associated with the Department, including 13 state parks and two recreation areas.

Prior to the Parks and Recreation appointment, she worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior in various leadership roles since 2017. Andrea served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (2019-2020). During this time, she aided the Assistant Secretary in overseeing the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. She also served as Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks (2018-2019), and the Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science (2017-2018). In both capacities, she served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and provided oversight for the U.S. National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Office of Everglades Restoration Initiatives, the Office of Gulf Coast Restoration, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Prior to joining the Interior in D.C., Andrea served as the Senior Policy Advisor of Natural Resources for Governor's Hoeven and Dalrymple in North Dakota (2010 to 2016). In early 2017, Andrea worked for the law firm Lockridge Grindal Nauen (LGN), PLLP in Bismarck, North Dakota, on issues related to energy, human services, and economic development. Preceding her appointment with the Governor's Office in North Dakota, Andrea was employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Sacramento District Office as a Biological Sciences Manager (2009-2010); a small environmental consulting firm in Bismarck, North Dakota as a Natural Resources Specialist (2004-2005); Ducks Unlimited in Washington, DC as a Legislative Affairs intern (2004), and Clay County, Minnesota, as a GIS Specialist (2001-2003, 2005-2009).

Andrea holds a Ph.D. in Natural Resources Management/Communication from North Dakota State University (NDSU) (2008) where her research focused on social networks and stakeholders associated with lake management in Minnesota. She earned her masters and undergraduate degrees from NDSU in Natural Resources Management. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award from NDSU's College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources in 2016 and the Horizon Award from NDSU in 2023. Andrea is currently a member of the NDSU Foundation Board.

Andrea has over 15 years of research and work experience within the natural resources, energy, agriculture, trade, national security, disaster response and recovery, communication, aviation, recreation and public policy fields. She has negotiated on water issues at the state, federal, international, and tribal level. Andrea's extensive background also includes diverse international experience working on trade-related matters.